

**Department of Education and Economic Development
Economic Development Division**

**Ministerial Statement, Tom Evans
November 2025**

As a reminder, our annual plan for the Division focuses on business development, community development, policy, data collection and offering supports.

Business Development

As of end of October, our Inuit Business Registry has 267 certified businesses. Three new business applications are under review.

Regarding procurement, three (3) packages were received from Vale with our Division nominating four (4) Inuit businesses and two (2) QBE nominations.

There are a total of 14 business clients: 11 in startup, 3 in growth.

The Business Development Committee (or BDC) continues to address business concerns and policy issues related to Voisey's Bay IBA implementation.

We are continuing to explore possible training program options and suppliers for program delivery. Due to lack of trainer confirmation, training is expected for Winter/Spring.

The division is preparing it's annual Christmas Campaign promoting Inuit business goods and services. This will be released on social media and Sharepoint on December 1.

Community Development

We have two funding programs: the Community Economic Development Fund (CEDP) and FFA. We have approved \$64,000 to the RICG for their Tourism Coordinator Position.

The new Community Capacity Program remains in Legal/Finance Review. It will be presented to NEC once approved.

An internal committee, including Economic Development, DHSD and Nunatsiavut Affairs is prepping to apply to the \$1.73 million Northern Isolated Communities Fund (NICI). Quotes for proposal development are under review, with contract awarded by December 5. We anticipate submitting a proposal to ACOA as of February 2026.

Policy & Data Collection

The community economic profiles were updated in October. We will release the profiles through a social media and website campaign in December. Staff capacity training to reproduce the profiles will be launched in December also.

We continue to review possible contractors for the development and operation of the labor database.

We are finalizing the contract to update our draft Compliance Policies and Procedures. The procedures dictate how our Inuit Business Registry is managed. Policy updates are expected to be completed early in the New Year.

We have developed a customized Inuit Business Registry training module with MUN Professor Tom Cooper. All staff will complete training on December 10.

Under NG's Recruitment and Retention initiative, the Labour Market Assessment has received feedback from four (4) departments. The RFP is expected to be released before end of December.

Self-Employment Benefits Program

This program provides EI-type benefits for 6-months to new business startups. We currently have one client, in the construction sector, accessing benefits and one application under review. The program is open for applications.

Business Financial Support

The new Business Grant Program remains in Legal/Finance. Once complete, this program will complete the required GovNL consultation under LILCA provision 7.8.7. Once provincial feedback received and incorporated, the program will be sent to NEC for approval.